

Education & Development

Judicial College Preparing State's Judiciary

This year marks the 35th anniversary of the B. E. Witkin Judicial College of California. Named in honor of the late Bernard E. Witkin, a revered expert on California law, the college is a two-week session beginning on June 10 at the University of California at Berkeley, Clark Kerr campus.

The college provides training for new judges, commissioners, and referees. Former municipal court judges recently elevated to the superior court through unification and commissioners who have been appointed to the bench also may attend the college to learn about new court assignments, review changes in the law, and exchange information with judges from across the state.

Rule 970 of the California Rules of Court requires that new judicial officers attend the Judicial College within two years of taking their oath of office. Costs for attending the college are paid through the Modernization Fund.

Students at the college analyze judicial philosophies, styles, and work methods; improve their decision making, handling of parties, and communication; and explore ways to handle court business, increase efficiency, and ensure fairness for litigants. Instructional methods include problem-solving exercises, panel discussions, small-group seminars, and case studies. The college offers courses and workshops on topics such as alternative dispute resolution, discovery, evidence, settlement techniques, drug treatment courts, determinate sentencing, trials, victim restitution, domestic violence, and many others.

Each year, the judicial college is planned by its dean and associate dean, who also serve as chair and vice-chair of the New Judge Education Committee. Brenda Fay Harbin-Forte, Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court in Alameda County, is dean of this year's college, and Superior Court of Sacramento County Judge Michael T. Garcia is associate dean. More than 80 judicial officers selected for their abilities as legal practitioners, teachers, and writers will serve as faculty and seminar leaders.

For more information on the B. E. Witkin Judicial College of California, contact Bonnie Pollard, California Center for Judicial Education and Research, 415-865-7821, e-mail: bonnie.pollard@jud.ca.gov.

Court Clerk Training

Last year's Court Clerk Training Institute (CCTI) was so popular that organizers could only accommodate 410 out of the 500 applicants that wished to attend. This year's conference, to be held at Stanford University in Palo Alto, beginning on July 8 and continuing for three consecutive one-week cycles ending on July 27, promises to be just as valuable and instructive.

Given only once a year, CCTI provides an arena in which students can exchange thoughts with peers and work toward professional goals within an academic environment. The institute offers formal classroom training for court clerks serving throughout the state, including an emphasis on cross-training for unified courts. Classes are designed for those clerks who work in the courtroom as well as for

those who receive documents filed at the counters.

The members of the faculty, who all have experience working in the trial courts, will present classes in the areas of appeals processing, civil courtroom and office procedures, criminal courtroom and office procedures, courtroom clerk orientation, family law, juvenile law, and probate. Written materials for each class include text information, flowcharts, procedural checklists, code references, samples of forms, minute orders, judgements, and verdicts.

For more information, contact Claudia Fernandes, Program Manager, 415-865-7799, e-mail: claudia.fernandes@jud.ca.gov.

RESOURCES

Apply for Drug Court Mini-Grants

Completed applications for drug court mini-grants are due to the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) by June 30. This grant program supports the implementation and enhancement of California drug courts.

California's Office of Criminal Justice Planning (OCJP) has made drug court mini-grants possible for the last five years by providing funding administered through the AOC. This year's grant process will focus on programs involved with juvenile delinquency. For fiscal year 2001-2002, it is anticipated that between \$500,000 and \$1 million in funding will be available and that individual mini-grants will be approximately \$30,000. The AOC is planning to distribute grant applications to the trial courts in May.

The Collaborative Justice Courts Advisory Committee makes selections based on the following broad eligibility criteria:

□ Viability of the program and its current level of financial need;

□ Consistency with the California Standards of Judicial Administration and other drug court guidelines;

□ Involvement of a local steering committee;

□ Successful completion of statistical and financial reporting requirements for previous mini-grant funding periods (if applicable); and

□ Completeness and comprehensiveness of the application.

For more information, contact Sandy Claire, Trial Court Programs, 415-865-7632, e-mail: sandy.claire@jud.ca.gov.

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Judge Brenda Fay Harbin-Forte

Photo: Xiang Xing Zhou



Judge Michael T. Garcia

Photo: Sirlin Photographers

Pro Per Conferences



The Administrative Office of the Courts' Center for Families, Children & the Courts (CFCC) sponsored four regional conferences this spring to help California's courts assist the growing number of unrepresented litigants. The conferences featured workshops on unbundling legal services, securing funding for pro per programs, partnering with legal services agencies and local bar associations, and more. Pictured here (left to right), Superior Court of San Francisco County Judge Donna J. Hitchens, Superior Court of Sacramento County Judge Alice A. Lytle, Superior Court of Tulare County Commissioner Norma Castellanos-Perez, and Superior Court of Alameda County Family Law Facilitator Deborah Chase share tips on how to effectively communicate with unrepresented litigants with participants at CFCC's Bay Area regional conference held in San Francisco on April 5-6.

www.courtinfo.ca.gov

NEWS FROM THE CALIFORNIA COURTS WEB SITE

The public California Courts Web site at www.courtinfo.ca.gov continually adds new information to keep the public and courts informed on the latest judicial programs and resources. Following are a few of the most recent additions.

Comments?

Find proposals for Judicial Council rules and forms that would become effective in January 2002 and affect court processes such as public access to electronic trial court records, uniform statewide rules on class actions, habeas corpus proceedings, and domestic violence protocols for family court services.

www.courtinfo.ca.gov/invitationstocomment

The AOC Yellow Pages

The Administrative Office of the Courts recently updated the Web-based telephone and e-mail directory of its major programs.

www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courtadmin/aoc/emailphone.htm

An Opinion on Unpublished Opinions

The Judicial Council's Appellate Process Task Force recently published a white paper titled "Unpublished Opinions of the Court of Appeal." This report discusses the citability and availability of unpublished Court of Appeal opinions and recommends that unpublished opinions be posted on the Judicial branch's Web site.

www.courtinfo.ca.gov/reference

Capitol Connection

The latest edition of *Capitol Connection*, the newsletter published by the AOC's Office of Governmental Affairs, covers recent legislative activity related to Proposition 21, implementation of Proposition 36, information on the

Senate Budget Committee, and more.

www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courtadmin/aoc/capconn.htm

Small Claims Information in Spanish

The Small Claims section of the California Courts Web site, which provides general information on the small claims process, mediation, and links to other valuable resources, is now available in Spanish.

www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courts/trial/smallclaims

Find Your Supreme Court

With Supreme Court oral arguments heard in Los Angeles four times per year and in Sacramento twice per year, basic information on where and when to file at these branch locations is now available on the California Courts Web site.

www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courts/supreme

State of the Judiciary



On March 20, Chief Justice Ronald M. George delivered his sixth annual "State of the Judiciary" address to a joint session of the California Legislature. Chief Justice George outlined the major court reforms in California in recent years, highlighting efforts such as trial court unification, jury reform, Proposition 36 implementation, and efforts to assist unrepresented litigants. *Photo: Maggie McGurk*



Associate Justice
Joyce L. Kennard



Judge Judith
McConnell

Court Briefs

Nominees Sought for Improvement of Justice Award

The Foundation for the Improvement of Justice, Inc. is accepting nominations for its annual awards program. This private, not-for-profit institution was founded in 1984 for the purpose of improving local, state, and federal systems of justice in the United States.

The foundation encourages such improvement by recognizing and rewarding accomplishments in nine categories: simplification of the law, crime prevention, child protection, speeding the process, effecting restitution, crime victims' rights, alternative sentencing, reducing recidivism, and lowering costs. Significant efforts outside these categories are considered as well. The awards recognize innovative programs that have proven effective and can serve as models for others in the administration of justice.

The foundation annually rewards up to 10 programs with

a certificate of appreciation, a commendation bar pin, a medal, a check for \$10,000, and an invitation to an awards banquet in Atlanta.

The deadline for receipt of this year's nominations is June 1.

● For more information, contact the Foundation for the Improvement of Justice, Inc., 201 Saint Martin Drive, Suwanee, GA 30024, 770-831-9411, fax: 770-831-9896, or visit its Web site at www.justiceawards.com.

Changes to Fee Waiver Forms

The Judicial Council has revised the *Information Sheet on Waiver of Court Fees and Costs* (form 982(a)(17)(A)), to conform to the increases in the 2001 federal poverty guidelines. The information sheet explains who is eligible for a fee waiver and how to apply for one.

California Government Code section 68511.3 states that permission to proceed without liability for costs shall be granted to litigants whose monthly income is 125 percent or less of the cur-

Resources

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New Panel to Nominate State Bar Court Judges

The California Supreme Court in April announced the appointment of the Applicant Evaluation and Nominations Committee, which will make recommendations to the court concerning applicants for three State Bar Court

judicial positions with terms beginning on November 1, 2001. The committee will distribute application forms for the open positions in May.

Comprised of a total of seven members, the committee will solicit applicants, evaluate candidates, and make recommendations to the Supreme Court concerning the upcoming appointments to the State Bar Court. Former Supreme Court Associate Justice Joseph Grodin, now a professor at Hastings College of the Law, will serve as the committee's chair. ■

rent monthly poverty line established annually by the secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). In accordance with that Government Code section, form 982(a)(17)(A) provides monthly income figures on which a court may base a decision to grant a litigant permission to proceed without costs. On February 16, 2001, HHS released revised federal poverty guidelines, and as a result, the council revised form 982(a)(17)(A) to reflect the new guidelines.

This revised form became effective March 10, 2001, and is posted to the California Courts Web site at www.courtinfo.ca.gov/forms.

● For more information, contact Cara Vonk, 415-865-7669, e-mail: cara.vonk@jud.ca.gov.

high court and the first woman to serve as its Chief Justice (1977-1987).

CWL presented the award to Justice Kennard for her courage on and off the bench, stating that the idealism of her opinions stand as an example to lawyers, especially women lawyers, throughout the nation. Justice Kennard was appointed to the California Supreme Court in 1989 and, at that time, became the second woman to serve on the state's highest court.

The National Association of Women Lawyers presented Superior Court of San Diego County **Judge Judith McConnell** with its President's Award for Advancement of Women in the Legal Profession. Judge McConnell was honored for her outstanding achievements as the first-ever female presiding judge of the San Diego court and for her long-term leadership in women's judicial organizations.

Judge McConnell, who began her career on the bench in 1978, has volunteered for many organizations and committees that assist women within the judicial system, including the Judicial Council's Advisory Committee on Gender Bias in the Courts and its Advisory Committee to Implement the Gender Fairness Proposals, as well as the California Women Lawyers and the Women Judges Fund for Justice.

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MILESTONES

California Supreme Court **Associate Justice Joyce L. Kennard** received the first-ever Rose Bird Memorial Award from the California Women Lawyers (CWL). The association created the award to recognize judges who through their compassion, intellect, and independence continue the legacy left by former Chief Justice Bird—the first woman named to the state's

2001 Guidelines for Determining Permission for Litigants in California to Proceed Without Liability for Costs

Number in Family	2001 Federal Poverty Guidelines (A)	125% of Poverty Guidelines (B) (B = A x 125%)	2001 California Monthly Income (C) (C = B/12)
1	\$ 8,590	\$10,737.50	\$ 894.79
2	11,610	14,512.50	1,209.38
3	14,630	18,287.50	1,523.96
4	17,650	22,062.50	1,838.54
5	20,670	25,837.50	2,153.13
6	23,690	29,612.50	2,467.71
7	26,710	33,387.50	2,782.29
8	29,730	37,162.50	3,096.88
For each additional person, add	3,020	3,775.00	314.58

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Administrative Office of the Courts

Court Briefs

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The San Mateo County Trial Lawyers Association presented Superior Court of San Mateo County **Judge Linda Marino Gemello** with its award for Judge of the Year. The award is given to jurists who embody the fundamental principles of the association by fairly and impartially upholding litigants' rights to have their cases decided by a jury of their peers.

Judge Gemello, who was elected to the bench in 1996, has also received awards from San Mateo County's Legal Aid Society in 1994 and the San Mateo County Bar Association in 1993. ■

Judicial Appointments

The Governor announced the following appointments in April 2000.

Jeffrey Barton to the Superior Court of San Diego County, succeeding Ernest Borunda, retired.

Desiree Bruce-Lyle to the Superior Court of San Diego County, succeeding Ann Winebrenner, retired.

Harvey Giss to the Superior Court of Los Angeles County, succeeding Robert T. Altman, retired.

Charles F. Haines to the Superior Court of San Francisco County, succeeding William James Cahill, retired.

Margaret Henry to the Superior Court of Los Angeles County, succeeding Frederick Lower, retired.

Carol Isackson to the Superior Court of San Diego County, succeeding Thomas R. Murphy, retired.

Harold Kahn to the Superior Court of San Francisco County, succeeding George T. Choppelas, retired.

Kenji Machida to the Superior Court of Los Angeles County, succeeding Rex H. Minter, retired.

John A. Mendez to the Superior Court of Sacramento

County, succeeding Louis Stephen Porter, retired.

Norman Tarle to the Superior Court of Los Angeles County, succeeding Marvin Rowen, retired.

Allen Webster to the Superior Court of Los Angeles County, succeeding Edward Yuiti Kakita, retired.

Browder Willis III to the Superior Court of San Diego County, succeeding Harrison Hollywood, retired.

The following court executive officers have been appointed since March 1.

Stephen A. Bouch, Superior Court of Napa County, succeeding José Octavio Guillén.

José Octavio Guillén, Superior Court of Riverside County, succeeding Arthur Sims. ■



Stephen A. Bouch

Getting in Touch

- Administrative Office of the Courts
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102-3660
- CALIFORNIA COURTS WEB SITE**
www.courtinfo.ca.gov
- The area code for the following is 415 except as indicated.
- MAIN NUMBER**
865-4200
- GENERAL PUBLIC INFORMATION and QUESTIONS**
865-7740, pubinfo@courtinfo.ca.gov
- JOB HOTLINE—Administrative Office of the Courts**
865-4369, www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jobs/
- JOB HOTLINE—Habeas Corpus Resource Center**
865-4314
- MEDIA RELATIONS, MEDIA REQUESTS**
865-7740
- PUBLICATIONS—REQUESTS**
865-7740, 800-900-5980, pubinfo@courtinfo.ca.gov
- DIVISION/UNIT**
CENTER FOR FAMILIES, CHILDREN & THE COURTS: 865-7739, 865-7569
- EDUCATION DIVISION: 865-7745
- EXECUTIVE OFFICE: 865-4240, 865-4241
Administrative Support Unit: 865-4211
Appellate Court Services: 865-4250
- FINANCE DIVISION: 865-7960
Trial Court Budget Support: 865-7541, 865-7542
- HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION: 865-4260
Trial Court Assistance Unit: 865-4269
- INFORMATION SERVICES DIVISION: 865-7400
- JUDICIAL COUNCIL SERVICES: 865-7737
Office of Communications: 865-7740
Research and Planning: 865-7454
Secretariat and Conference Services: 865-7640
- OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL: 865-7446
- OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS:
916-323-3121
- TRIAL COURT PROGRAMS DIVISION: 865-7530

BY SUBJECT

- Access, fairness, and diversity: 865-7671, www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/access/
- Appellate courts, services to
Appellate education: 865-7823, 865-4255
Appellate procedures: 865-7583
Appellate rules: 865-7583
Appointed appellate counsel: 865-4250
California Rules of Court: 865-7690, www.courtinfo.ca.gov/rules/
- Cameras in court: 865-7653
Cameras in court form (requests from media): 865-7734, 865-7726
- Comment, invitations to:
www.courtinfo.ca.gov/invitationstocomment/
- Court community outreach: 865-7709, www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/community/outreach.htm
- Court employees:
www2.courtinfo.ca.gov/tcemployees/
- Court facilities: 865-7959
Task Force on Court Facilities
www2.courtinfo.ca.gov/facilities/
- Court interpreters: 865-7599, www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/courtinterpreters/
- Drug courts: 865-7632, www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/drugcourts/
- Education
Court employees: 865-7745, jaicinfo@courtinfo.ca.gov
- Judges
Programs: 865-7745, cjerinfo@courtinfo.ca.gov
Publications: 865-7805, cjerpubs@courtinfo.ca.gov
Videotapes: 865-7792, cjertapes@courtinfo.ca.gov
- Ethics: 865-7799
- Family and juvenile law
Center for Families, Children & the Courts: 865-7739, 865-7569, www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/childrenandthecourts/
Access grants: 865-7585
Child support: 865-7619
Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program: 865-7704
Domestic violence: 865-7712
Grants: 865-7705
Mediation/evaluation/alternative dispute resolution: 865-7571
Research, evaluation, and statistics: 865-7555
Standards and programs: 865-7554
Training and education: 865-7556
- Forms, Judicial Council: 865-7690, www.courtinfo.ca.gov/forms/


- Judges
Appointments
All levels: Governor's Judicial Appointments Secretary, 916-324-7039
Appellate: Chair, Commission on Judicial Appointments, Supreme Court of California, 350 McAllister Street, San Francisco, CA 94102-3600
- Complaints
Sitting: Commission on Judicial Performance, 557-1200
Retired: 865-7638
- Judicial Council, services to
Secretariat and Conference Services: 865-7640, jcservices@courtinfo.ca.gov
- Jury reform: 865-7589
- Legal: 865-7446
Alternative dispute resolution: 865-7691
Civil procedure: 865-7665
Conservatorship: 865-7665
Criminal law and procedure: 865-7688
Delay reduction—civil: 865-7665
Economic litigation: 865-7669
Employment law: 865-7545
Evictions: 865-7669
Guardianships: 865-7665
Labor law: 865-7803
Landlord-tenant: 865-7665
Probate: 865-7665
Small claims: 865-7669
- Standards of Judicial Administration: 865-7825
- Strategic planning
Community-focused court planning: 865-7709, www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/community/court_planning.htm
Judicial Council strategic plan: 865-7708, [www.courtinfo.ca.gov/reference/1_annualreports.htm#Leading Justice](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/reference/1_annualreports.htm#Leading%20Justice)
- Technology policy and planning: 865-7431
- Three-strikes law: 865-7650
- Trial courts, services to
Change of venue: 865-7638
Coordination of civil actions: 865-7630
Court administration procedures (court holidays, fax filing, forms, rules): 865-7685
Grant coordination: 865-7705
Human Resources—Trial Court Assistance Unit: 865-4269
Judicial assignments: 865-7638
Judicial benefits: 865-4323
Local rules: 865-7669
Traffic: 865-7611
Trial court budget support (AB 233): 865-7553
Unification (SCA 4): 865-7708
Vexatious litigants: 865-7593

Photo: William A. Porter

Spread the News

Tell *Court News* about innovative programs and services at your court so that we can share your experience with your colleagues.

Send the information via mail to Blaine Corren, *Court News*, Administrative Office of the Courts, 455 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102-3660, phone: 415-865-7449, fax: 415-865-4334, or e-mail: blaine.corren@jud.ca.gov.



Calendar

MAY 1 Law Day
MAY 14-20 Juror Appreciation Week

CONFERENCES

MAY 17-18	Family Violence and the Courts: A Coordinated Response, Los Angeles
MAY 24-25	Conference of Presiding Judges and Court Executives, Newport Beach
MAY 31-JUNE 2	National Association of Drug Court Professionals Annual Conference, New Orleans
JUNE 7-8	2001 Traffic Adjudication Workshop, San Diego
JULY 15-18	National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges Annual Conference, Monterey
JULY 15-20	National Association for Court Management Annual Conference, New Orleans

JUDICIAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

All Judicial Council business meetings will be held at the Administrative Office of the Courts in San Francisco unless otherwise noted.

JULY 13 AUG 24

- Contact: Secretariat and Conference Services, 415-865-7640, or e-mail: jcservices@courtinfo.ca.gov. Judicial Council meeting information is also posted on the California Courts Web site at www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courtadmin/jc/.

JUDICIAL EDUCATION

Programs

MAY 10-12 Cow County Judges Institute, Yosemite Valley

JUNE 10-22 B. E. Witkin Judicial College of California, Berkeley

AUG 5-11 Continuing Judicial Studies Program, Summer Session, San Diego

AUG 29-30 Computer Class, San Francisco

Note: Computer class students must possess a Serranus identification number to participate.

- Contact: Center for Judicial Education and Research (CJER), 415-865-7753.

Orientation

Orientation programs for new trial court judges, commissioners, and referees are scheduled as follows:

MAY 21-25

Note: Orientation sessions with insufficient enrollment will be canceled.

- Contact: CJER, 415-865-7745.

ADMINISTRATIVE EDUCATION

MAY 14-16 Seven Habits of Highly Effective People (for mid-level managers), Long Beach

MAY 15-16 Managing Organizational Change, Long Beach

MAY 17-18 Mid-Level Management Conference, Long Beach

JULY 8-27 Court Clerk Training Institute, Palo Alto

- Contact: Administrative Education, 415-865-7745.

COURT NEWS

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